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REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are in the case.

Claims 4-6 are allowed

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103. Claim 1 is objected to.

No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to for a typographical error. In line 3 "form" should be "forms". The claim has been amended to overcome this objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrenko (US 6427946) (hereinafter "Petrenko") and Bonnell et al (US 6873163) (hereinafter "Bonnell"). Applicants note here that the reference cited in the present action attributed to Bonnell et al is US 6060876, which in fact is a patent by Glasband et al dealing with subject matter unrelated to the present case. Applicants have selected US 6873163 from the Examiner's listing of searched references (PTO-892, attached to the present action) and have based the following comments on this reference. Confirmation of this selection is respectfully requested by Applicants.

The examiner asserts that the claim 1 will be examined on the basis of steps (a-c) without reference to the limitations of the preamble as the preamble is not limiting. The examiner finds that all elements of steps (a-c) of claim 1 are found in Petrenko including the limitations of a compound that forms self-assembled monolayers, formed on a substrate, and a measurement of the difference of the surface potential between the surface and the monolayer. Petrenko does not teach the use of surface scanning potential methods to determine the surface potential of the surface or monolayer. Bonnell is cited for teaching surface scanning potential mapping. The examiner suggests that the skilled person would look to Bonnell to supply the missing element not found in Petrenko to derive the invention. Applicants respectful traverse.

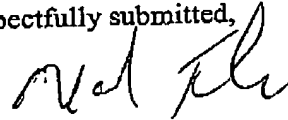
Claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitation that the effect of using the surface potential mapping in part (c) of the claim is to determine the molecular electrical conductivity of the SAM compound. Neither Petrenko nor Bonnell teach the use of surface potential mapping for the purpose of determining molecular conductivity.

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Applicants submit that in view of the above, the claims as amended comply with the requirements of 35 USC § 103 and are not obvious over the cited art, and respectfully request removal of all rejections and reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,



S. NEIL FELTHAM
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS
Registration No.: 36,506
Telephone: (302) 992-6460
Facsimile: (302) 992-5374

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